

## Candidate 9 evidence

### **Analyse religious responses to moral issues arising from justifications for war. 10**

A justification for war is self-defence. When a country is attacked, the use of force is sometimes deemed necessary to protect its citizens and way of life. One significant moral issue arising from the justification of war is the loss of innocent life. Even in wars fought in self-defence, civilians often suffer due to bombings, displacement, and destruction of infrastructure. Many Christians often turn to the teachings of Jesus, which emphasise peace and nonviolence to address the moral issue of war. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." This implies that Christians should prioritise peace and seek nonviolent solutions rather than go to war as this goes against the teachings of Jesus. However, some Christian denominations adhere to the Just War Theory, which says that war can be morally justifiable under specific conditions, such as a legitimate cause, proportionality, and the intention to restore peace. Therefore, while many Christians oppose war on the basis of Jesus' teachings, others may support it under carefully considered circumstances if it meets the criteria of Just War Theory.

Another justification for war is humanitarian intervention, which occurs when a country uses force to stop widespread human rights abuses, such as genocide. The goal is to protect vulnerable people and uphold basic human dignity. There is the moral obligation to prevent violations of human rights, such as mass killings or oppression, even if doing so means violating the control of another nation. This creates a moral dilemma about when and how to intervene, as military action can also lead to unintended consequences, such as civilian casualties, prolonged conflict, and instability. In the Bible, God commands, "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." This highlights the Christian duty to act against injustice. Christians who support humanitarian intervention may argue that it is a moral obligation to protect innocent lives from harm, showing the values of compassion and justice to others.